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EXAMINER

DELCOTTO, GREGORY R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1751

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/935,982

Applicant(s)

EVANS ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory R. Del Cotto

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 32, 33 and 40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30, 32, 33, 40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-30 and 32-40 are pending. Applicant's arguments and amendments filed 11/14/05 have been entered.

Claims 1-29 and 34-39 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 8/16/04.

Objections/Rejections Withdrawn

The following objections/rejection(s) as set forth in the Office action mailed 8/11/05 have been withdrawn:

The previous rejection of claims 30-33 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, has been withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by WO 89/09806 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Art Unit: 1751

Claims 30, 32, 33, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

With respect to claim 30, the specification as originally filed, provides no basis for "at least 10,000 mg/kg" as recited by the instant claims. While the specification provides basis for 10,000 mg/kg, it does not provide basis for at least 10,000 mg/kg which has not upper limit. Thus, this is deemed new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Art Unit: 1751

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by WO 89/09806.

'806 teaches a coolant composition containing an alkylene glycol such as propylene glycol, a corrosion inhibitor combination of an azole such as tolyltriazole, a molybdate salt and phosphoric acid, and less than 10% by weight water. See Abstract. The composition contains at least 90 weight percent of an alkylene glycol or a mixture of two or more alkylene glycols and a corrosion inhibiting amount of an inhibitor. This embodiment contains no water. See page 3, lines 1-15. Suitable alkylene glycols include ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol, and mixtures thereof and '806 teaches that the glycols may be used together in any proportion. See page 3, line 30 to page 4, line 12.

Specifically, '806 teaches a coolant composition containing 30 parts propylene glycol, 70 parts ethylene glycol, less than 1 part of water, 0.25 parts azole, 0.15 parts molybdate, and 0.075 parts phosphoric acid. See page 9. Note that, on page 28, lines

Art Unit: 1751

15-20 of the instant specification, Applicant states that even though the compositions may be non-aqueous, small amounts of water in amounts of about 0.5% may be included in the composition; compositions containing a low amount of water are specifically taught by '806. Note that, the Examiner asserts that the composition as specifically taught by '806 would inherently have the same reduced oral toxicity as recited by the instant claims because it teaches mixtures containing ethylene glycol and propylene glycol in the same proportions as recited by the instant claims. '806 discloses the claimed invention with sufficient specificity to constitute anticipation.

Accordingly, the teachings of '806 anticipate the material limitations of the instant claims.

Claims 33 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 89/09806.

'806 is relied upon as set forth above. However, '806 does not teach, with sufficient specificity, a method of reducing the oral toxicity of nonaqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific polyhydric alcohol such as glycerol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to reduce the oral toxicity of nonaqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific polyhydric alcohol such as glycerol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success, because the teaching of '806 suggest reducing the oral toxicity of nonaqueous

Art Unit: 1751

fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific polyhydric alcohol such as glycerol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Claims 30, 32, 33 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer et al (US 5,118,434) or Maes et al (US 5,366,651).

Meyer et al teach antifreeze fluids containing 50 to 99 percent by weight of one or more glycols, 0.001 to 15 percent by weight of one or more corrosion inhibitors, 25 to 2500 parts of a polymeric additive, and optionally, up to 50 percent by weight of water. See column 1, line 50 to column 2, line 5. Suitable glycols include ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, etc. See column 2, lines 40-60.

Maes et al teach antifreeze concentrates containing a water-soluble liquid alcohol freezing point depressant and a corrosion inhibitor comprising carboxylic acids or their salts and a triazole compound. See column 2, lines 55-69. Suitable freeze point depressants include glycols such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycols, etc.

Note that, the Examiner asserts that the broad teachings of Meyer et al or Maes et al would suggest compositions having reduced toxicity because Meyer et al or Maes et al suggest compositions containing the same components in the same proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Meyer et al or Maes et al do not teach, with sufficient specificity, a method of reducing the oral toxicity of nonaqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific diol such as propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to reduce the oral toxicity of nonaqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific diol such as propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success, because the teaching of Meyer et al or Maes et al suggest reducing the oral toxicity of nonaqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific diol such as propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Claims 30, 32, 33, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood (US 4,455,248).

Wood teaches a specific combination of corrosion inhibitors for glycol-based antifreeze formulations which provides protection of aluminum from corrosion under high temperature service conditions without sacrificing the corrosion protection of other metals or the other properties required of suitable antifreeze formulations. Suitable glycols include ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol, etc., and mixtures thereof. See column 2, lines 47-69. The composition optionally contains water and for convenience in handling and storage, the antifreeze may be formulated as a concentrate containing little or no water. Clearly, Wood teaches compositions that may be non-aqueous. Even if the composition does contain water, Wood teaches that the composition may contain as little as 0.1 parts by weight of water for every 100 parts by weight of said alcohol which would fall within the amount of water permissible by the definition of "non-aqueous" given on page 28 of the specification.

Art Unit: 1751

Note that, the Examiner asserts that the broad teachings Wood would suggest compositions having reduced toxicity because Wood suggests compositions containing the same components in the same proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Wood does not teach, with sufficient specificity, a method of reducing the oral toxicity of nonaqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific diol such as propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to reduce the oral toxicity of nonaqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific diol such as propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success, because the teachings of Wood suggests reducing the oral toxicity of nonaqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific diol such as propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 30, 32, 33, and 40 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of copending Application No. 10/264041, claims 1-10 of 10/347900, claims 27-50 of 09/910497 and claims 22-29 of 10/935897. Note that with respect to claims 1-13 of copending Application No. 10/264041, claims 9-13 of 10/347900 and claims 22-29 of 10/935897, although these claims recite "aqueous", the term "non-aqueous" is defined in the instant specification as allowing for the presence of some water which would fall within the normal meaning of "aqueous" as recited by claims 9-13 of 10/347900 and claims 22-29 of 10/935897. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 1-13 of copending Application No. 10/264041, claims 1-10 of 09/347900, claims 27-50 of 10/910497 and claims 22-29 of 10/935897 encompass the material limitations of the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to reduce the oral toxicity of aqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene glycol a specific diol such as propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success, because claims 1-13 of copending Application No. 10/264041, claims 1-10 of 10/347900, claims 27-50 of 10/910497 and claims 22-29 of 10/935897 suggest reducing the oral toxicity of aqueous fluids containing ethylene glycol by mixing with ethylene

Art Unit: 1751

glycol a specific diol such as propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Response to Arguments

With respect to '806, Applicant states that all the embodiments disclosed in Remy, including the example of a mixture of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol contain water added to the alkylene glycol and the addition of solutions of phosphoric acid. Further, Applicant states that Remy does not teach or suggest a fluid that contains no additives that require the presence of added water in the fluid as now recited by the instant claims. Also, Applicant states that at page 3, lines 1-15 of '806, '806 discloses compositions which are not complete which contain water and requires ingredients that require the presence of added water. In response, the Examiner asserts that page 3, lines 1-15 of '806 would suggest compositions containing no water and thus, these compositions do not contain additives that require water in the fluid to dissolve the additive as recited by the instant claims. The reference has been read in context and the Examiner believes the composition is complete. To strengthen the Examiner's position, '806 states that the alkylene glycol is used with essentially no water on page 5, lines 25-35. Additionally, the Examiner asserts that '806 clearly teaches compositions which contain little or no water as indicated on page 9, where compositions containing less than 1% by weight water are disclosed. Also note that,

Art Unit: 1751

"non-aqueous" as recited by the instant claims is defined in the specification as allowing for the inclusion of some water as stated on pages 28 and 29 of the specification.

With respect to '806, Maes et al, Meyer, or Wood, Applicant states that these references do not describe a method for reducing the oral toxicity of an ethylene glycol based heat transfer fluid by adding a second glycol as recited by the instant claims. Additionally, Applicant states that it is a mere possibility that the compositions as taught by Maes et al might have reduced toxicity as recited by the instant claims. In response, note that, the Examiner asserts that '806, Maes et al, Meyer, or Wood, clearly suggest compositions having the same reduced toxicity as the recited by the instant claims because '806, Maes et al, Meyer, or Wood suggest compositions containing the same components in the same proportions as recited by the instant claims. Additionally, although '806, Maes et al, Meyer, or Wood do not make specific mention of reduced toxicity properties, the reason or motivation to modify the reference may often suggest what the inventor has done, but for a different purpose or to solve a different problem. It is not necessary that the prior art suggest the combination to achieve the same advantage or result discovered by applicant. See MPEP 2144; In re Linter, 458 F.2d 1013, 173 USPQ 560 (CCPA 1972). Furthermore, with respect to the proportions of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol as recited by the instant claims, the Examiner asserts that one skilled in the art would have been motivated to formulate compositions containing ethylene glycol and propylene glycol in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims because the teachings of '806, Maes et al, Meyer, or Wood suggest compositions containing ethylene glycol and propylene glycol in the specific proportions

Art Unit: 1751

as recited by the instant claims. Note that, each reference teaches various combinations of glycol ethers in varying proportions.

Furthermore, Applicant states that on pages 20-26 of the specification, unexpected and superior results of the claimed invention are shown with respect to toxicity. The Examiner asserts that this data is insufficient to overcome the prior art rejections applied above. It is unclear to the Examiner exactly what unexpected results are being shown; it seems that one of ordinary skill in the art would reasonable expect that the toxicity of ethylene glycol would be reduced when combined with propylene glycol since propylene glycol is much less toxic than ethylene glycol. Thus, the data does not appear to show any unexpected and superior results but just merely shows what would be expected. Additionally, a rejection under 35 USC 102 has been made under WO 89/9806 as set forth above and secondary considerations are not sufficient to overcome rejections under 35 USC 102.

With respect to Wood, Applicant states that since Wood necessarily teaches the use of sodium metasilicate, this would necessitate the addition of sufficient water for the sodium metasilicate to dissolve and remain in solution, i.e., in order for the sodium metasilicate to function. Note that, while sodium metasilicate may be insoluble in alcohol, Wood clearly suggests embodiments which contain sodium metasilicate and also may contain no water; Wood teaches that the compositions may be formulated as concentrate compositions which contain no water. See column 3, lines 1-20. The fact that sodium metasilicate is not soluble in water is not relevant to the teaching of Wood

Art Unit: 1751

which clearly suggests concentrate compositions which contain little or no water and are the same as the non-aqueous compositions recited by the instant claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (571) 272-1312. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1751

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gregory R. Del Cotto
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751

GRD
August 8, 2005